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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic imaging system, comprising:
an imaging device for imaging ~~projecting~~ an object ~~image of an object~~ inside a body cavity;
a digital signal converter for converting an image signal sent from said imaging device ~~means~~ into a digital signal;
a signal processor for processing said digital signal sent from said digital signal converter;
a discriminating signal appending circuit for appending a discrimination signal in relation to the number of pixels of said imaging device to said digital signal processed by said signal processor;
a compression circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said ~~discrimination~~ discriminating signal appending circuit, and for compressing said digital signal processed by said signal processor; and
a recording unit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compression circuit on a recording medium.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An endoscopic imaging system according to claim 12, wherein said data recorded in advance on said recording medium is medical-field data or patient data.

14. - 30. (Canceled)

REPLACEMENT PAGE 4

31. (Currently Amended) An endoscopic imaging system comprising:
an imaging device for projecting an object image; and
a signal processing device for processing an image signal outputted from said imaging device,
wherein said signal processing device comprises:
a signal processing circuit for processing said image signal outputted from said imaging device to produce a digital signal;
a discrimination signal appending circuit for appending a given discrimination signal to said digital signal produced by said signal processing circuit;
a compressing circuit for determining a level of compressibility according to said discrimination signal appended by said discrimination signal appending circuit; and for compressing said digital signal produced by said signal processing device; and
a recording circuit for recording said digital signal compressed by said compressing circuit on a recording medium.